

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's telephone call of May 20, 2005.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1 and 10 have been amended, claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for filing in a continuation application. Thus, claims 1-8 and 10-16 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action dated February 10, 2005, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katoh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,430, "Katoh") in view of Pape et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,047,863, "Pape"). The Examiner reasserted the rejections of claims 3, 5-6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katoh in view of Pape and further in view of Rambaldi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,084, "Rambaldi"), and claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katoh in view of Pape and further in view of Tabei (U.S. Patent No. 5,805,216). It is noted that claims 1 and 10 have been amended. To the extent that the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, Applicant hereby traverses the rejections, as follows.

Independent claims 1 and 10, as amended, include a feature wherein corrected image data is formed for all of the pixels regardless of whether a defective pixel exists. As noted by the Examiner in the aforementioned telephone call of May 20, 2005, none of the cited art of record discloses or suggests such a feature. Thus, independent

claims 1 and 10, as amended, are patentably distinct over the cited art of record and in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-8 and 11-16 depend from claims 1 and 10 respectively. As such, claims 2-8 and 11-16 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 10, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-8 and 11-16 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number **107317-00003**.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox, PLLC



Michele L. Connell
Registration No. 52,763

Customer No. 004372
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Telephone No. (202) 857-6104
Facsimile No. (202) 857-6395

WC/MLC

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (1 month)